THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1888.

Eijau Opera House—Virginis. Beeth's Theatre—The Corden Brothers. Bunnell's Husenm—Broslery, ceraer 9th st. Daly's Theatre—the Would and the Would Hob. Pair's Theatre-the West and the Woold Neb-Fifth Avenue Theatre-The Daughter of Beland. Globe Dime Museum-195 Bewery. Grand Speen Meanes—Is Furnise. Haverly: Theatre-Trits Among the Syptiss. Madines Square Theatre-Toung Mrs. Wisters Ribbon Standes—The Back Flag. New Yark. Managum—119 Devery. Seen Francisco Ministrato—Breatway and 19th st. Standard Theatre-Jointhe. Standard Theatre-Islantia. Stefaway Mall-Haliner, Concert. Theatre Comique—Heterley's Infation. Tony Parter a Theatre—Huldoon's Ficula Tony Paytor a Theater - Haldon's Flenia.
The Casinos—The Queen's Lace Hamilerchief.
Thatin Theaters—Hamilet.
Union Squares Theaters—A Periolan Romanca.
Wallonian Theaters—She Stoops in Conquer.
Whiteless Theaters—The Stoops in Conquer.

### The Civil Service Bill-A Constitutional Objection.

When the President came to consider the provisions of the Civil Service Reform bill in detail, he discovered one which seemed of doubtful constitutionality, and the published reports of the meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday indicate that he would not have signed the bill if a method had not been devised of avoiding the objection.

The act authorizes the Civil Service Commission to employ a chief examiner, whereas, says the Tribune's report of the Cabinet meeting, "It was contended that under the law the appointment of that officer should have been vested in the President or the head of one of the departments. It was finally concluded, however, that the difficulty might be averted by the President appointing the officer in question upon the recommendation of the Commission."

If there is a constitutional defect, it will not be a simple matter to cure it by this ex-

The Constitution, article 2, section 2, provides that the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers, Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in the Constitution, and which shall be established by law; "but the Congress may by law yest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of

departments." Assuming that the chief examiner under the Civil Service act is an inferior officer, the power of appointment should have been vested in the President alone, in a court of law, or in a member of the Cabinet. The statute, however, assumes to give it to the Civil Service Commission. In order to obviate this constitutional objection, the President proposes virtually to exercise the power of appointment himself.

This he cannot do alone. He must send the nomination to the Senate. It will be noticed that the general power of the President to appoint to offices which shall be established by law can be exercised only by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. He may appoint inferior officers without the advice and consent of that body, but only when expressly authorized by Congress so to do, and Congress has conferred no such authority upon him in respect to the office of chief examiner under the Civil Service act.

If, therefore, the President takes any part in this appointment at all, he must assume that the statute is constitutional so far as it establishes the office, but unconstitutional in the method which is provided for filling the office. Hence the law is to be read as though nothing was said therein about the appointing power in this case, and the President, ing under the Constitution, must nominate a chief examiner and appoint him by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. If he takes this course and the Senate confirms his nomination, a very curious condition of things will be presented. have the President and the Senate acting upon the assumption that a law approved by the one and passed by the other is in part unconstitutional, and this without any decision by a Court to that effect.

It is not creditable to the authors of the Civil Service act that such a question should have arisen. It is true the act says, not that the Commission shall appoint, but that it is authorized "to employ" a chief examiner. and the argument may be made that he is not an officer of the United States, and therefore not subject to the provisions of the Constitution already cited. He can be removed only for cause, however, and after an opportunity of being heard in explanation of any charge against him, and he will be ontitled, under the act, to a salary of \$4,000 per annum, and to be paid his necessary travelling expenses. Plainly enough the intention was to make him an officer of the United States to all intents and purposes, except, perhaps, so far as the method of selecting the person to occupy the place was concerned, and as to that it looks very much as though the word "employ" was used in the statute as a means of evading the requirements of the Constitution in respect to the appointment of officers.

The President might well have sent the bill back to Congress for amendment in so important a matter.

Mr. Seney's New Railrond Enterprise. The praiseworthy munificence of Mr. GRORGE I. SENEY of Brooklyn toward various charitable objects has made his name known all over the country within the last few years. His success as a business man has been no less remarkable than his charity, For a long time the obscure cashier of a city bank, he now ranks as the happy possessor of millions, and his business transactions have become to some extent matters of general public interest, inasmuch as they concern lines of railway which are important now or are likely to develop into importance

in the course of time. One of Mr. SENEY's enterprises of this character, which appears thus far to have escaped the attention of the public, is pretty fully explained in a bill now before Congre to incorporate the Arkansas, New Mexico

and Pacific Railroad Company. This bill was introduced into the Senate on the 12th inst, by Mr. PENDLETON, was read twice, and was referred to the Committee on Railroads. Mr. PENDLETON said he in-

troduced it by request. It provides for the incorporation of the company already mentioned, "with authority to construct, maintain, and operate a line of railroad and telegraph" from a point at or near Fort Smith, Arkansas, westerly through the Indian Territory, Texas, and New Mexico to Albuquerque. There are twelve persons named as corporators in the bill. Mr. GEORGE I. SENEY is one of them, and six of the others are recognizable as business friends of his, or men virtually employed in his service. It is tolerably plain that the Arkansas, New Mexico and Pacific Railroad will practically be the property of

Mr. SENEY. We do not know that it could have a better owner. Apart from any consideration of

persons, however, there is a notice fretty widely diffused that Congress has given away franchises rather carelessly in the part, and that it ought not to do so any sore. There may be no objection to making charitable rich men richer, but Congress must see to it that the people are guaranteed something in return for what they give. This bill consists chiefly of grants of power to the corporation which it creates, but contains very few pro-visions indeed imposing any obligations on the company. Some of the enactments in favor of the corporation are manifestly objectionable, as, for example, the provision that when there shall be no Judge of a Court of Record within the Indian Territory to condemn lands for the railroad, "then condemnation shall be made and compensation paid for any property taken and damages sustained under such regulations and before such tribunal as the President shall appoint." The power thus conferred is too general and vague. The law itself, and not the President, should declare what tribunal, in any given exigency, is to exercise authority to conc

lands for the purposes of a railroad.

Possibly a further study of this bill might disclose other clauses which also require amendment.

Prince Napoleon's Demonstration. Three weeks ago the manifesto of Prince NAPOLEON would have had no political importance, for the incident and its author would have been treated with indifference and derision. The view taken by the present Minister of the Interior, that the publication of the document does not constitute an offence under the existing press laws, would have been sustained by public opinion, and the Cabinet, strengthened and enlightened by the influence exerted by GAMBETTA on many of its members, would have avoided the blunder of conferring martyrdom on the Bonapartist claimant. But GAMBETTA is dead, and the feeblest and most timid of reaction ists no longer hesitates to attempt a coup d'état while the Government exhibits every symptom of a panic, and stoops to the dis-

creditable admission that the safety of re-

publican institutions is henceforth incom-

patible with the presence of any member of

dynastic family on the soil of France. There is not, apparently, a word in the Bonapartist manifesto which transcends the sphere of legitimate political criticism. The document does but repeat strictures on the recent foreign and home policy of republican Ministries which have appeared day after day in French and foreign newspapers. It is true, as Prince NaPoleon asserts, that since the downfall of the GAMBETTA Cabinet, the conduct of the Government has entailed humiliation abroad and a growing loss of confidence at home. It is true that, unless a marked improvement in the administration of public affairs is soon discernible, the ma jority of French voters may sink into the mood of complete discouragement to which any change is welcome. It is true, too, as Prince NaPoleon insists, that the country has never had an opportunity of categorically proclaiming by a plebiscite its preference for a republic ove some form of Crearism. On the other hand. there is no doubt, even in the minds of reactionists, that while GAMBETTA was alive, a direct appeal to France would have been answered by an overwhelming majority in favor of republican institutions. But the theory of Prince NAPOLEON is and he is not alone in holding it, for so sagacious a man as M. ROUHER expresses the same opinion, and It appears that the Comte DE CHAMBORD was on the point of issuing a manifesto of his own—that the people's faith in a republican regime was inseparably bound up with its trust in the foremost Republican orato and statesman, and that the former sentiment cannot long outlive the latter.

Whatever may be the soundness of this theory, it is certain that the time for testing it was ill chosen, and that Prince NAPOLEO was in some respects unfitted to apply the test successfully. The strong and hitherto coherent party of Gambettists which has formed the core of the Republican majority in plain violation of right and reason. He yet undergone the inevitable process of disintegration. So long as this body holds together it is still the strongest single political force in France, and the hour of its dissolution will only be postponed by premature attack on the republican system. In the present instance, the assault was not only mistimed but exceptionally weak. Prince Napo-LEON, for the very reason that he has always professed opinions more liberal than those of any living member of his family, reproducing in this respect the attitude of LUCIEN BONAPARTE, is regarded with distrust and aversion by the greater part of the Bonapartist faction, and has therefore figured, hitherto, as a claimant without backers, a General without an army. In these circumstances the most effective answer to his illplanned demonstration would have been contemptuous toleration, accompanied possibly with a hint that his longer residence in the country would be looked upon as a nuisance. But the Cabinet, paralyzed by the conscious ness that it is representative of nothing but a spiteful and accidental coalition, and dismayed by the signs of discontent and disaffection in the army and in all classes of the community, has made the deplorable mistake of treating seriously what might have been turned into a jest. Then the Chamber of Deputies, which since the last general election has evinced a fatal capacity for blundering, has made matters worse by voting urgency for a motion to expel from France all persons representing the former dynasties -- a motion which not only exiles the sons of Prince NAPOLEON, one of whom is now serving in the army, but punishes the Orleans princes for an offence in which they could not conceivably be implicated, since it was counter to their interests. Nothing but panic, as we have said, can account for this last proceeding, and we cannot but distinguish the most sinister feature of the incident in the betrayal of feverish uncertainty and vague alarm on the part of those who, a year ago, were loud in asserting the impregnable establishment of the republic.

If anything could assure to Prince Na-POLEON the united and zealous support of the Bonapartist faction, it would be the action of the Government, which obviously invests his pretensions with a dignity and importance they never before possessed: Already the veteran politician M. ROUHER declares that the movement, although perhaps begun at an ill-chosen moment, should be sustained; and there are other indications that the dissensions among the Bonapartist leaders will now tend to disappear. Such men, however, as M. AMIGUES and M. DE CASSAGNAC may prove implacable; and, in any event, time will be required to once more together the Bonapartist party for the purpose of an aggressive propaganda. Meanwhile, however the standard of revolt has been unfurled the head of the Napoleonic dynasty has publicly denounced the republican régime as a failure, and by implication called upon the people to overthrow it; while on the other hand the Ministry has shown itself distrust ful of its power to refute such affirmations by argument and ridicule alone. Must we not infer from the action of the Ducasse

Cabinet that it discerns a good deal of truth

majority of the French peasantry prefer the empire to the republic, and were only tem-peracily seduced from their preposessions by the popularity of GAMBERTA? It is unlikely that the present incident will have any other immediate result than to

rage the assailants of republican insti-

tutions by revealing the misgivings of their defenders. The walls of the French republic would be rotten indeed if they could be thrown down by the mere blowing of a horn. It is made clear, however, that the existence of the present régime can be pro-longed for a considerable period only by more conclusive proofs of foresight and dexterity than have of late been forthcoming on the part of the Government, as regards its foreign policy, its fiscal administration, and its method of dealing with the Church, the army, and the courts. No form of polity which seems to threaten the guarantees of public order and security will be tolerated in s country, a large majority of whose citizens are property owners, yet possess neither the powers nor the aptitudes for self-government. Prince Napolson may not be the man to whom the most resolute and unscrupulous of the Bonapartist leaders look for a restoration of the Napoleonic régime. It is also possible that the dynasty itself may be incurably discredited in popular esteem by the disastrous outcome of the last war with Germany. Admitting both propositions, we must still recognize the truth that Les Idees Napoléoniennes are more deeply rooted in rance than the Napoleonic dynasty. There is apparently no chance for the permanent reverablishment of a monarchy, which, in the popular mind, is irremediably tainted by the dogma of divine right, by the traditions of the ancien régime, and by its intimate relations to the old aristocracy. But Casarism, whether in the form of an empire or of a life Presidency, and whether embodied in a member of the Napoleonic family or in any strong individuality, is invited by the intensely centralized organization of government in France and by the age-long habits of abdication and dependence on the part of its population. As things are now, the French voter once in three years divests himself of all powers of self-help and self-control, and is virtually subject to the creatures of the Deputy who represents his arrondissement n the national Legislature. Between a multitude of local desnots and Consariam there is much less to choose than might be imagined by people who practice self-govern-ment and know nothing by experience of highly centralized institutions. Cosarism. which derives its warrant from a pichiscite, and theoretically recognizes no power or class or interest in the State, but only the whole people whose mandatory it is must always have peculiar charms for the French peasant, accustomed as he is to the whole sale delegation of his political powers. Indeed, we have here in the United States, as Prince Napoleon pointed out in his manifesto, and as Mr. BAGKHOT observed before him, a kind of Cosarism, involving, how-

appointees and benchmen of local autocrata! Grant. Gen. GRANT has probably found at last the

ever, a fresh plebiscite every four years. If

our American Casana have hitherto proved

harmless, it is because the powers conferred

upon them are so narrowly limited, and be-

selves so large a measure of local indepen-

dence. Yet even we find a species of Cosar-

ism convenient. How much more desirable

must the Casarean type of government ap-

pear to the French nation, which knows

nothing of township, county, and State gov-

ernments, and at present finds itself at the

mercy of a horde of petty functionaries, the

ause our people have reserved to them-

employment for which his natural talents best fit him. He always chafed under the limitation of his salary as President. To bet-ter his condition while in that office, he added his signature to the back-pay grab, because by the same bill his own emolument was raised to double the former amount, although always affected the society of rich men and of those who were believed to be most prominent in engineering great speculations in Wall street. While he was still President, he became intimate with Mr. JAY GOULD and the late Mr. Fisk, and his subsequent associations with the surviving member of that remarkable firm have been rendered very close and intimate, especially through the munificence of Mr. Goven in subscribing \$25,000 to the Times fund for GRANT's benefit. Since GRANT'S retirement from the White House in favor of the Fraudulent President, he has devoted his time almost entirely to speculation of some sort or another. In this game he has been reported as meeting with various success; but the probability is that his fortune is not much greater or much less through his gambling. But it has thrown him into more intimate contact with the owners of enlarged wealth and with the men who control the great railroad interests of the country. These mighty operators deal in transactions so magnificent as to involve millions at a time; and many of them, after the Stock Exchange closes its doors for the day, take to their trotting wagons and spend the rest of the afternoon on Jerome avenue and in the numerous interesting hotels situated beyond McComn's dam. For this form of amusement, GRANT has developed a great fondness. He has become a recognized visitor at the sporting taverns on the road, and his team, although it can't compare with

who go up the avenue prepared to try their horses' speed with any one they meet. And yet the love of horseflesh and taverr conversation has not formed the most efficient bond in attaching him to the capitalist whose interests he serves at present. Though the most conspicuous member of the Wall street fraternity, Mr. JAY GOULD never has shown more than a moderate interest in horses We believe he once owned a sister to Mr. Box-NER's famous mare, Music, but we fail now to recall his ever possessing a horse with a record below 2:20, and his wagon is rarely seen on the drives where horses can be put to their top speed. But it is toward Gould that GRANT has steadily drifted, until at last we find him at work in Washington, in the lobby of Congress, to put a scheme through that will be mainly for the benefit of Gould.

FRANK WORK'S OF WILLIAM H. VANDER-

BILT's, can outbrush the majority of those

The treaty for reciprocity with Mexico which GRANT is now trying to have carried through, is a scheme to cut off the subsidier from certain Mexican roads now near complotion, and the success of this scheme will nable Gould and Huntington to bring the enterprises which they have control of into crushing competition with the enterprises they wish to destroy. Reciprocity will deprive Mexico of her present revenues from imports from the United States, and as these revenues are pledged for the ratiroad subsidies now guaranteed by Mexico, it will absolve that Government from paying them. This will put the subsidied roads and Goupp's and Huntingrow's roads on a par, and tend to the final consolidation of the whole system into one under the control of Govan. This is the first purpose of GRANT's presence in Washington.
From being the associate and beneficiary

naturally into a lobbylet in his interest. Mr. Gould never has been known as a mean man. He has always been ready to pay for what he wanted, and in return, as in the appointment of STANLEY MATTHEWS to the Supreme bench, he has proved reientless in insisting upon the fulfilment of his bargains. He has paid out a good deal first and last for GRANT. His first investment at the time of the Black Friday enterprise amounted to \$25,000, and the last was the subscription of \$25,000 to the Times fund. But the whole amount expended is probably very small, compared to the value of the services in which GRANT is now engaged, provided they should be sue cessful. If the reciprocity treaty goes through, GRANT will certainly come in for another share of Mr. Gound's cash; and as the great Wall street operator has always enjoyed a reputation for liberality toward those who serve him faithfully, the portion going to the ex-President will no doubt be far more substantial than both the former subscriptions put together. Before long he may even get as rich as Mr. C. J. OSDORNE, one of Mr. Gould's most steadfast assist ants; and if he keeps his place and doesn run counter to his master, he may die rich too. What a conclusion for the great third

term candidate! Imperious Casas, dead and turned to clay, Might stop a hole to keep the wind away; O, that the earth, which kept the world in awe, Should patch a wall to repei the winter's flaw!

For the Next Congress

At least one hundred million acres of the public land, worth at market prices from three to four hundred million dollars, have been forfeited by the land-grant railroad companies through failure to earn the grants.

Grave questions of law, of equity, and of public policy are involved in the action which Congress shall take in regard to these unearned grants. The final ownership of the vast territory is not to be determined in the hurly-burly of the lobby or in the seclusion of any committee room of either branch of Congress. The law and the facts must be fully understood by the people before the people's acres are signed away.

The action of the House Judiciary Commit tee upon the motion to forfeit the Northern Pacific land grant probably disposes of the whole question so far as the present Congress is concerned. It is impossible that the pres ent Congress, in the remaining six weeks of the session, should give the consideration needed for intelligent and just action.

It will be the duty of the Forty-eighth Con gress to see that not an acre of the public and is illegally confirmed to any corporation; and it will be equally the duty of the next Congress to see that no corporation is wronged because it is a corporation.

It is proper, however, for the Fortyseventh Congress to take steps to prevent the issuing of patents from the land office while the final settlement of the question is pending. The sympathy with the plans of the land grabbers exhibited by certain officers in the Interior Department and the Department of Justice needs to be restrained from taking practical shape.

Mr. GLADSTONE must be unusually ill when he throws up work, gives up his projected political campaign in Scotland, and leaves England to seek health in France. This restless man has hardly ever known anything in the way of rest, and for many years past has often worked away under personal suffering and threatening ailments such as would have laid low most other men. There is no doubt that he is now, both in mind and in body, a very

It is interesting to watch the political operations of Lord Durrents in Egypt. A description of the kind of government to be set up over the Egyptians by the British authorities will be found in a despatch from London printed to-day.

Japan appears to be coming forward rapidly. Its lively and enterprising people seem to have forgotten all the old hostility to foreign influence, and every year they advance further intends to extend the railroad system through the northern portion of the empire. The Japanese, according to recent information, are also endeavoring to develop their commerce on the coast of Asia. A steamship ompany, which intends to have a fleet of forty steamers, has been formed for this purpose and we are told that half of the vessels will be affont within eighteen months.

How some of the old missionaries would stare Asiatic coast of the Pacific within the last few years! How they would wonder at the enterprise of the Japanese of our day!

The great strike of railway operators in otland is not as extensive as the strike of their brethren in this country in 1877; but it has produced serious disturbance in the conduct of the railroads there. The Scotch strikers are very stiff in their demands, and are holding mass meetings to strengthen their cause.

An authoritative settlement of the qu tion as to whether welse beer is intoxicating has been obtained in the General Sessions, be fore Recorder SMYTH. Experts testified with confidence as to the properties of lager bear and weise beer, and as to their relative intoxicating qualities. The bulk of the testimony went to show that the two beers are substantially the same in their properties, except that the greater admixture of water in the weiss per almost entirely nullifies the intoxicating qualities of its other constituents. This may or may not be the fact, but, at all events, it went unchallenged in the trial. One enthusi-astic brower's collector went so far as to testify that no man could drink enough weiss beer to intoxicate him. Indeed, he said that he could drink a keg of lager beer, which is vastly tend to his own business. We have heard of men who, after drinking much less than a keg of beer, could not confine themselves to their own business, but insisted upon attending to that of others, and got themselves into trouble. But, at all events, the jury acquitted the defendant, who was charged with selling an intoxicating beverage on Sunday, on the ground that what he sold was welse beer, and not intoxicating. So we have a precedent that is of importance to such of our fellow citizens as are fond of beer, lager and weiss.

The man who wrote a letter to the Mayor of Boston, announcing that he was going to kill Gov. BEN BUTLER, failed to pay the postage on his communication. The Mayor's clerk, who sent to the Post Office for the letter, retained for the want of postage, presumably supplied the money necessary for its release. Was it the public money which was thus employed? Gov. BUTLER is stirring the ancient commonwealth by his vigorous action for retrenchment. Let him look into this matter.

The astrologers are not going to be outlone by Wissins, the storm prophet, if they can help it. One of them has seized upon the possibility of the reappearance within a few years of the great star of TYCHO BRAHE in the constellation of Cassiopeia as a basis for a programme of horrors in comparison with which Winding's great March storm sinks into insig-nificance. Unfortunately for the astrologers TYCHO BRAHE's star is not the only one which has unexpectedly appeared in the sky. Ever to late as 1876 a new star suddenly shone forth in the constellation of Cygnus, and afterward faded into a nebulous speck, without any dire From being the associate and beneficiary

JAX GOULD, Gen. GRANY has turned

consequences to mankind. If the astrologers want to obtain followers, they must find something more unequamon than comets and temporary stars. THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS.

Republicano Manauvring for Postsi WARHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Representatives of ading interests in manufactures and trade including the tobacco interest, to say nothing of the whiskey people, seeking relief from Congress, are on hand in hourly increasing numbers. One would think that the country was next door to ruin. Unquestionably the uncer tainty about the action of Congress is working mischief. Large manufacturers declare tha they dare not enter into contracts ahead be-cause they do not know what the tariff is going to be. Notably is this the case with the iron and steel men. The tobacco men bave sudden-ly found out that all is dark, because they don't know about the internal tax which they have petitioned to have reduced. A while ago they were going on smoothly, but, having asked for

reduction, they are at sea.

It seems highly improbable that either the enate or House Tariff bill will get through at this session. A "little Tariff bill" during the losing hours of the session is not unlikely This would be repeating a memorable experience. The idea of forcing an extra session of Congress some time ago came from the Repub-lican side. Whether it is part of such a scheme or not, there is talk about the necessity for an extra session, in view of the probable failure of action on the tariff, taxation, and some other

In all this there is a measure of serious reality. The country can stand almost anything else better than uncertainty. Congress has created just this, with little prospect of doing anything to cure the evil. In the first place the time is short, even if there was a genuine determination to act. The two branches of Congress will be brought inevitably into col-lision on the tariff and tax questions. If there was nothing else to take up the time, there would be little enough for these questions. Then there is Chandler's twenty-million appropriation, and neither Chandler, Robeson nor Roach proposes to wait. The Ring claim the right of way in legislation. The tariff and tax questions can wait. The old monitors cannot. They are more important than any thing effected by the tariff or tax bills. There fore it should surprise no one if Chandler Robeson, and Roach obtained the right of way and caused tariff and tax to go over for ten nonths. Apparently this or an extra session

of Congress.

The Mississippi question is a pretentious and portentous affair, and would of itself consume every day remaining of the session. There are alf a dozen questions to dispose of, for any one of which the remainder of the session would nardly suffice. Seemingly there has been no last come together; nevertheless there is a giut of business, and of a description whose postponement till next winter is hardly to be thought of. The fourth of March will see the last of the present Congress. Whether the new one shows itself before December, is a question which many things tend to answer in the affirmative.

### EARTHQUAKES.

The province of Murcia in Spain had a pretty lively shaking up on Tuesday. Twentywo successive earthquake shocks were felt there, several houses were destroyed, and consternation prevailed among the inhabitants. The day before there was a heavy earthquake shock in Bohemia. Last week southern Illinois and western Kentucky were shaken. Since the beginning of the year there have also been shocks in New England and Canada.

These disturbances of the earth's crust, ocurring in rapid succession, attract attention to the theory that earthquakes are sometimes at least, the result of causes affecting a large portion of the earth, or perhaps the whole globe. Various so-called ourthquake cycles have been pointed out, but it cannot be said that any one of them has been satisfactorily established. It is impossible to predict earthquakes, and the utmost that careful observation has so far proved is that there are certain periods when earthquakes are unusually numerous. All sorts of theories have been in vented to account for these periodic disturbances of the earth. Some have ascribed earth quakes to the influence of comets, although the idea is about as well founded as that of the astrologers that comets foretell wars and famines. Others have thought that earthquakes may result from the varying force of attraction of the sun, the moon, and the other planets in their imitation of Western civilization. It upon the earth. There is, at least, some apwhole question is yet open, and a great deal more information is needed before it can be

in any degree settled. There is, perhaps, no other display of natural forces, not even excepting volcanic crup tions, so frightful as a great earthquake. Earthquakes have destroyed many thousands of human beings and laid waste whole cities and provinces. They are entirely beyond human control, and experience has shown that they are just as likely to occur now as they were conturies ago. The questions what causes them, and is there any means of fore-seeing their visitations, are therefore of great interest, and we have reason to be thankful that in this part of the world the solid ground is not often shaken, and that when an earth-quake shock is felt it does little damage.

# The Bible and its Critics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In view of the late strictures upon the Bible by the Rev. John W. Chadwick, George C. Miln, and the very recent utterances of the Rev.R. Heber Newton, and other ecclesiastics, would it not be well for these reverend gentlemen to call a council of all the scholarly malcontents, both ay and derical, in this country and throughout Christendom, for the purpose of giving to the world a Bible absolutely free from fable and from fiction-the infallible and only inspired Word of God ? The people are sick of negations, and demand something positive. But where shall they find it? Certainty not among the fogs of orthodoxy, if we are to believe these 'advanced and liberal" thinkers. So, with wistful looks and yearning hearts, the people wait for this modern school of prophets to formulate for them that theology which is to be both radical and rational and as these learned divines are so clamorous for a Bible that shall have "God for its author, and truth without any admixture of error for its matter." will they not be kind enough to furnish the world with so priceless a boon? A Bible that shall stand the test of the keenest philological criticism, that shall be the acme of Christian scholarship, and that will be in perfect harmony with reason, science, and common sense, is the 'one thing needful" of the times. With this sure and impregnable foundation upon which to build their eternal hopes, the common people will receive it gladly, for the mists and clouds which have so long obscured their spiritual horizon will then be forever swept away. Instoad of the present cumbersome volume, we shall have a Bible so portable as to be conveniently placed within the covers of an ordinary lunting-cased watch. By all means, gentlemen, give the people the Infallible Word, and give it speedily.

BROOKLYN, Jan. 17.

Is This True!

From Stephen W. Dorsey's Letter of Resignation from the National Republican Committee.

From the very nature of the circumstances I was forced to do many things upon my own responsibility, and yet in that entire campaign nothing was done by me that was not most heartily sanctioned by Gens.

We are almost tired of noticing the successive that we always have to employ language of unqualified eulogy, and in the long run such sameuces is rather wearisoms. But the February number seems to exceed wearisoms. But the February number seems to exceed in interest every one of its predecessors. A most charming and attractive article is Mr. Wirt Sikes's description of the wild Welsh coast, with its varied and fascinating illustrations of scenery and character. Then there is an account of distinguished among them, including of the most distinguished among them, including of course, Frince Rismarck, Herr Lasker, Herr Baunierger, and Herr Windhorst. The second of Mr. Boughton's artist strolls in Holland is even more charming than the free. The illustrations are full of the delicacy, humor, and grace which belong to the productions of his pencil.

A VITAL PRASE OF THE SOUTHERN

The Mulattees and their Melatten to the

ATLANTA, Jan. 2 .- Nearly opposite to the Young Men's Library in Atlanta there is a large brick house bearing in conspicuous letters the words, "Calhoun's Restaurant." This namesake of the great Carolinian is one of the most prosperous colored property holders in this city. Through his open doorway appear coun-ters and tables loaded with piles of well-cooked entables; and behind them stand a welldressed, fine-looking mulatto and his wife. These are Mr. and Mrs. Calboun. A stream of customers throng in and out, among whom are

many white poorle. Mr. Calhoun, who gets his name from his former owner, a cousin of the Carolinian, owns a good home in the suburbs, and pays taxes on about \$20,000. His daughter, a rather pretty mulatto girl, is a graduate of Atlanta University. He is generally respected, and it is probably as prosperous a family of colored peo-ple as is found in the South. Many whites might only their condition.

At the western side of the Calhoun House

there is a tall, very narrow, steep staircase leading from the street to the third story, and boaring a sign, "Office of the Atlanta Defiance," This is one of three weekly papers edited and published by colored men in Georgia. The Echo and the Georgia Baptist are the others. The proprietor of the Defiance is a trim, well-dressed quadroon, wearing a beaver, and he also is a graduate of Atlanta University. The paper costs \$2 per annum, and has a circulation of about 700. The proprietor prints it himself, but employs an editor

and has a circulation of about 709. The proprietor prints it himself, but employs an editor. When I saw the former he had just recovered from a severe spell of sickness and the editor had just died, so that the Defleyer did not seem very prosperous: but this is a temporary misfortung in a city probably containing a larger proportion of mulatices than any other Southern town, and where the colored people pay taxes on \$400.000 worth of property.

Mr. Calhoun and the editor of the Deflence represent two important classes—the colored property holders, the colored men of education—among a very interesting class, the Southern mixed bloods, mulatices, quadroons, octoroons.

In a previous article on the negro I mentioned that the color line in social relations at the South had the effect of identifying mulations and negroes, and forced the former in the effort to rise to carry the latter with them. Since that was written I have been struck by another curious effect of the color line.

In all countries the natural leaders of the laborers, or radical class, axainst the property owners, or conservative class, are educated men without property. But many of these, by association and friendship, become identified with the conservatives. They hope to own property, and at any rate, share so many advantages of the existing state of things that they are indisposed to change it. The working of these causes has much influence in protecting property. ing property.
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vaniages of the existing state of things that they are indisposed to change it. The working of these causes has much influence in protecting property.

But in the Southern States the educated mulattoes are not subject to any aristocratic blandishments. They know that they can never pass the color line. Thus these leaders of the negroes, in proportion to their white bood are very radical. Thuse whose ancestors were three-fourths of them white, and some of whom are better educated than many whites, resent with great bitterness their exclusion from white society, and when thus forced to take up the leadership of their race, naturality take a very extreme view of all questions concerning them.

It is evident these causes must work thus, but these statements are not based on mere presumptive reasoning. It is the opinion of those persons at the South who can look with dispassionate eve on the workings of this curious social problem, that education and time have not had the effect of bringing peace and good feeling between the races. Here was, between the perfece who were serious and the southern whites, a much kinder feeling than is now feit by the younger cass of negroes. There were many strong personal friendships between the people who were enamerated and those among whom they had grown up.

In my own personal systements I have known two instances where orderly ladies who had lost all their property in the great wreek were, at least partly, suppor sai by negroes whom they had downed. One of these had possessed two very valuable negro mechanies, who speedly began to lay up capital, and a merchant who was giad to creat them fold methors requested him to let their old mistress have what she wanted.

In the family of the writer, two young white women were forced to teach, and employed a neuro one a slave of their father as janitor. Caleb Ballersone was never more falinful to the master of flavenswood than he was to them. The only bit of uppishness he ever showed was in wishing to be called. William, instead of much fl

they spoke of the execution of some negro rioters at Eastman as the hanging of "innocent men." The very name the Defiaace is suggestive. The very name the Defiaace is suggestive. The Georgia Legislature, which met to adjourn until July, a member had a motion prepared to withdraw from Atlanta University the \$8,000 annually given by the State, and to give into negro hands the money given by the State for negro education. It is not probable that so disastrous a measure will at present prevail, though the proposer undertook to show that it was the wish of the negroes themselves. I think there is very little doubt that a number of interested negroes wish to have the spending of that money and if there comes an increasing dissatisfaction with the results of negro education, it is not improbable some of the whites may conclude to let them spend it.

I do not believe there is any opposition among white property owners to the education of the negroes, but I do not believe they like to pay for it. They think they or their children will never get a quid pro quo. They make no effort to do away with the school tax—for to do this would unite against themselves white and black laborers. The acure politicians of the South will be very slow to do anything which would induce these two classes to act together politically. Whytever opposition there may be to a school tax, the papers never say a word of it.

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which would induce these two classes to act together pointically. Whytever opposition there may be to a school tax, the papers never say a word of it.

I have watched with great interest and curiosity the working of this strange social problem. There seems to me no solution in sight which will bring quiet to these communities and an opportunity to turn their energies in some other direction. But the people of the South have aways had a political genius if they have not had statesmanship. They are also learning great self-courted.

A race which is not assimilated orings ceaseless trouble. If ever any portion of the black race could crawly up into the close white ranks it would be the descendants of white men and quadroon women are very landsome. I remember between twenty-five and thirty years ago a scene which has often seemed to me a fit subject for a great painter of female beauty, as Sir Joshua Reynolds. In a family of friends whom I was then visiting there was a young lady who was very often called the most beautiful woman of the State in which she lived. One evening there was an aristocratic welding, and she was to be bride-maid. The carriage was waiting for herself and her carriage was waiting for herself and her carriage was waiting for herself and her maid, who was to go with her young mistress and add some touches to her tollet, when the old father of the young lady sent a request that she would come and show herself to him before going. She was a very fair, blue-eved blonde, one of the most beautifully-formed women I ever saw with an exquisite air of high-bred grace, and a levely excuede

virtuous. They would not knowingly submit to a temporary relation with any man. Now, the laws of marriage incidentally afford protection to women against the false professions of men who would seek a temporary gratification. If a man really intends to be true to a woman while they both live, he will, of course, be willing to bind himself by marriage, so that he can never wed another. If unwilling to do this, he shows that he tells a falsehood about his present intentions. Thus, without aupposing the marriage laws to be intended to protect women by binding to them men who wish to leave them (a view degrading to the sex), they do incidentally protest women from deceivers.

Now, a white man may tell a mulatto woman he never expects to desert her, but she cannot nut him to this test. He may now tell her he would marry her but for injultous laws which prevent it. He can argue that marriage laws are for the protection of the community and that she owes nothing to a community which has made it impossible for a man who loves her to marry her.

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are for the protection of the community and that she owes nothing to a community which has made it impossible for a man who loves her to marry her.

Thus the barrier to amalgamation which the virtue of colored women would afford is lost sight of, and amalgamation made possible just where the more prosperous whites are in most danger from it. On the other hand, if mixed marriages were sanctioned by law, I do not believe a single white man would marry a colored woman, unless he had already had children by her, and been rejected by his own race for his immoral conduct. In such cases amalgamation has already taken pisce.

I do not believe there is any probability of any even remote union of the races, so far as I can observe. The only way in which the mulattoes could ever overcome the projudice of race is by making a separate social class equal to that of the whites. This is wholly an improbable prospect.

Southern white women are entirely without responsibility for the existence of mulattoes. I have lived in the South fifty-two years, with varied opportunities for information, and I have heard of but one white woman who had a mulatto child. I have many times heard Southern women, seeing mulattoes, say: "Oh, I am so glad those creatures are free!" I case heard an old lady say with great bitternoss: "I could have no security that my own descendants might not be mulattoes and slaves."

Since I wrote some former articles on the negro I have taken some mensures to estimate the number of mulattoes in the South—a matter of great interest, in which census tables give no help. Of course, all data are imperfect, but I think true conclusions may be drawn within certain limits.

First, with some other persons, who were each well acquasinted with all the colored people on several large plantations removed from towns and villages, I have counted the unmistakable mulattoes, and took the per cent, of the whole. On some of these places full plantation records were kept for the owner's convenience, and are still in existence.

Next

### A Blow at Fits John Portor.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The injustice which claimed to have been done to Gen. George H. Thomas WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The injustion which is claimed to have been done to George II. Thomas by Senator Don Cameron in his speech in support of the Pitz John Porter bill has killed it stone dead in the Fitz John Forter bill has killed it stone dead in the floure. The speech is all the more effective in this direction because it has aroused the intensest feeling on the part of many who, if they were not before positively friendly to the bill, were willing to see it pass.

The paternity of the Senator's speech is much in question. It is not ascribed to him. It is accided variously,

Gen. Porter himself, Horace Porter, Mr. Moulton, and several others being named as its possible author. It may have been a joint production. Whatever be the fact, it was a great inistake, for it has aroused an opposition which would be serious for a bill with ever so good s

prospect.
Cameron's speech causes no little comment, indepen dent of the question of its paternity. It was printed in advance, and the extraordinary course was taken of distributing it in the Senate galleries and lobbles before it tributing it in the Senter galactes and toobies cester it was pronounced. This was a strange proceeding, to say the least. The speech contributed nothing to the strength of the bill in the Senter. It passage there was already assured. And seemingly there was another motive than a desire to help the bill.

Of the one hundred and fifty thousand living men who,

as soldiers, served under the eye of Gen. Thomas, Pennsylvania has her share. If the Senator does not hereafter feel this, it will be be cause men become forgetful. It is believed that there is no hody of men so thoroughly united or zealous in favor of any similar object as Thomas of the profiler as the granting his form. One of them, himself soldiers are to guarding his fame. One of them, himsel an officer of distinction, and not unfriendly to the Portsi hill, remarked: "Mr. Cameron will be taught to do his own thinking, and, in doing it, to think more wisely than to travel out of his way to question the loyalty of Gen. Thomas at any period of his life, whether his object be to save another or to help his own declining political

#### Mrs. Brewster Calls on Mrs. Borses From the Globe Democrat.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11,-There was a sensation General Brewster's yellow-wheeled carriage, with its two men in drab coats and cockaded hats, and the two black horses in dark blue blankets embroidered tions of ex-Senator Dorsey. The footman dismounted took the cards from Mrs. Browster, who sat inside, and ran up the terrace steps, laying the cards on the butler's sliver tray when informed that "madame was not re-ceiving that afternoon." This word was returned to the lady in the carriage, and the equipage rolled off to another doorway. The puzzled neighbors could hardly believe the evidence of their senses when they saw the Attorney-General's family calling on the Star-router's wife. The indignant Mrs. Dorsey telephoned for the law yers, and presented the matter to counsel before she should carry out any of her plans of retort. The law yers examined the cards on both sides, held them to the light, and submitted them to chemical fests withou reaching a clear conclusion as to what mistake or inter tion there could have been in the matter, and there the

# George Washington Not Irish.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In reply to a letter which appeared in Tue Sees of the 11th inst., I teel bound, as an Irishman, to speak in defence of my native country. The assertion of Michael Belrine that two Irishmen to every American fought for the Ameri-can cause in the Revolution must be attributed either to a mistake or ignorance; but the writer of the letter shows an equal degree of ignorance when he says that Gen. George Washington was an Irishman, since he was an Angio-American. The writer bonsts of being an American. Were all Americans disposed as he is toward the Irish, an oppressed and down-trodden people, whom he despises and ridicules, they would have but little aympaths to expect. Were this man's ancestors Americans, or what does he call his mother country? If he descended from English stock he could not be expected to speak well of a people whom he would willingly destroy; if from Irish, he is a degenerate Irishman, who, like Esait, would soil his birthright for a mess of portage. I am invested an Irishman, and glory in the mane, but I love the country where I found a home when I was forced into exile by the tyramy and cowardice of a cruel, vinitietive, and impringled Government.

Summit, N. J., Jan. 12. Danie, J. C. O'Rowans. a miniake or ignorance; but the writer of the letter

Mrs. Langtry's Last Appearance in Chicago From the Chicago Tribune

Before the rise of the curtain it was quite evolut that the gallery people had come to "guy" all the saw, as they started in on decree Rowron, the leader of the orchests, and made audible comments apar its hald head as it beamed up among the footlights. Then they propounded the old question as to why it was the man with the base viol in the orchestra shwars had a head devoid of hair, but no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at.

the man with the base viol in the orichestra always had a bend devoid of hair, but no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at.

The first two acts of the play called for no especial remarks from the gatlery gods, but when Mrs. Langity appeared in "doubted and hose" and asked what she would do with them when Octasia appeared, one of the gods emitted an autilitie grana, and this was the signal for the "suring to begin. None were spared, and every personage who appeared on the stage was commented upon, generally unfavorably. The gods peticed canny upon the stage and a large place of saffy adhered to the head of the base from. The unfortunate gentleman who site of the course appeared to catch the infection and charles the wrealter, was doubted. Maidoon," and every god constituted himself a referee in the wreating without sint while the star was very much embarrassed at the gatlery code constantly calling out for some personage named. "Fredlie." In the last act she ordered at the gatlery code constantly calling out for some personage named. "Fredlie." In the last act she ordered the curious principles of the word in the gatlery code constantly calling out for some personage named. "Fredlie." In the last act she ordered the curious financial fare would be called. Taken altograther, the Lip received a farewell in Chlesgo that will not likely permit her lot forget this city in many day.

The other marning Vennor got out of bod, looked onter marning Vennor got out of bod, looked onter marning Vennor got out of bod, looked onter worked not not seek with a gasg of amozement. The hotel people heard him fall and rushed into his room. What is the mafter? they should be a look? The prophet gasped, ponting to the window, Yes, they said, we see but what of it? What is it doing? he asked. "Snowing. They cried; the six woo inches of snow on the ground in one might, and still a commer; drifts eighteen feet high, and all reads abandoned. Snowing, that's what if a doing? "I libertly so," the prophet said, "hut then again I feared it was advision. I linought it couldn't be free. What is it? they demarded once more. Why, so did the weather trainer, "you see this is the day I said in was going to snow hard all over America, and its well all to know it would ence this left, and traided off my sieigh for a road wagen. Oh! dear, oh! dear how was I to know it would ence with weak?" And he buried his face in his hands and gave way to his emotions. So they came away and left him alone with his sorrow.

A Learned Woman.

From the Young Ladler' Journal, The most learned woman in the world is Miss Ramushal, a voing into of 20, who is now in Farls. She is a native of india, and can read and write and talk in twelve lanurages having a wonderful gift in that way, besides being up in mathematics, astronomy, and his tory. She is studying medicine, and will ge to India to practice, where she says thousands of her county-women die every year because they will not econic male physicians.